

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 -8 are pending.

The Examiner is repeating the same rejection as in the previous action with respect to rejections over art, and in doing so even repeats mention of portions of the claims that were deleted in the previous response to office action and are no longer present in the claims (the language of "posters, advertising fliers, computer output media" was deleted from the claims, but the Examiner still mentions this in the rejection).

The Examiner states that it would be obvious in view of the admitted prior art of Figs. 5-7 to use a deformable tube of soft vinyl. However, this ignores the discussion of the background of the application noting drawbacks of the rubber cord of the prior art which led the present applicants to seek a better solution.

Also, the prior art does not show a tube. Applicants respectfully submit that the tube of the present invention provides a patentable difference over a solid cord type rubber of the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the word tube very clearly conveys the concept that a hollow center is present and the tube is deformable, which is absent in the prior art.

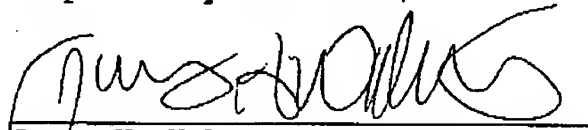
Further, the Examiner states that having a separate bar inserted in the tube "lacks any disclosed criticality and would have been obvious to hold the tube straight and clamp the material evenly". Applicants respectfully traverse and

respectfully request that the Examiner consider the invention and its purpose. The bar is an alternate way to hold the tube to the shaft and is respectfully submitted to provide patentable aspects to the claims.

As noted in the background, the prior art solid rubber cord has disadvantages. For example, the rebound force of the rubber cords is weak and the cords are susceptible to deterioration.

In light of the above noted remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


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